

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002368
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 NSCE-00 HA-05 PA-02 USIE-00
SS-15 /038 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:RSTEVEN:NG
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:RSTEVEN
-----078114 052116Z /66
O 052022Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 002368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CHILEAN PLEBISCITE

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION OF STATEMENT
READ BY DEPT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING JAN 5 IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTION ABOUT CHILEAN PLEBISCITE:

QUOTE WHILE WE DO NOT DESIRE TO PRESCRIBE THE INTERNAL
POLITICAL SYSTEM OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE AS A
MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT ANY ELECTION HELD SHOULD OFFER ALL
PARTIES SUFFICIENT GUARANTEES TO PRESENT THEIR CASE AND GIVE
THE VOTERS A FULL AND FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR
VIEWS. THIS SITUATION DID NOT OBTAIN IN THE PLEBISCITE IN
CHILE, WHERE NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE BANNED, WHERE

FREEDOM OF PRESS AND ASSEMBLY ARE SHARPLY RESTRICTED, AND
WHERE THE QUESTION WAS UNFAIRLY POSED AS A CHOICE BETWEEN
"THE DIGNITY OF CHILE' AND "INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION".

NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN CHILE'S LONG DEMOCRATIC HISTORY, WE HOPE
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THAT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF A
PROCESS THAT ALLOWS CHILEANS TO EXPRESS THEIR DEMOCRATIC
PREFERENCES IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT THERE WILL CONTINUE TO
BE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE.
UNQUOTE.

2. CABLE WILL FOLLOW WITH FULL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF
ABOVE AND OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH FOLLOWED. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Drafter: RSTEVEN:NG
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780195/aaaadckb.tel
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, CI
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
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